

ATTACHMENT C

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-11 (canceled).

12. (currently amended) A holder for supporting a series of drills in a vapor deposition chamber to allow a ceramic coating to be deposited on regions of the drills extending from their tips of the drills, the holder comprising:
at least one perforated outer wall provided with an array of apertures into which the drills can be inserted from an exterior of the holder, ~~characterized by the drills are being inserted~~ with said regions projecting outwards from the holder,
a support wall within ~~the~~ a hollow interior of the holder for the or each perforated outer wall, said support wall being parallel with and spaced from the outer wall and provided with a corresponding array of apertures for locating the inserted drills with ~~their shanks thereof~~ substantially parallel,
stop means within the hollow interior of the holder spaced inwardly of the or each support wall for locating the tips of drills of the same diameter projecting to substantially the same extent from the outer wall, and
a gas passage separate from said apertures for permitting gas flow between the interior and exterior of the holder,
wherein the hollow interior of the holder and the locating of the drills ~~being is~~ such that the part of each drill inwards of the outer wall is shielded from the exterior but is exposed to the atmosphere within the hollow interior of the holder.

13. (previously presented) A holder according to claim 12 wherein the stop means comprise a back wall in the interior of the holder, parallel to said outer wall and to said support wall.

14. (previously presented) A holder according to claim 12 having a polygonal outer periphery, said at least one outer wall forming at least one face of said periphery.

15. (previously presented) A holder according to claim 14 and having a hexagonal outer periphery, alternate walls of the holder being perforated with an array of apertures into which the drills can be inserted.

16. (currently amended) A holder according to claim 12 provided with a lid shielding the hollow interior from above, said lid being provided with a the gas passage for permitting gas flow between the interior and exterior of the holder.

17. (previously presented) A holder according to claim 12 provided with means for stacking of the holder with a second holder having a corresponding outer wall configuration.

18. (previously presented) A holder according to claim 17 having top and bottom faces for abutment together whereby the two corresponding holders can be supported one on the other, and a flange projecting over said abutment of the faces for providing a closure for the joint between the abutting faces.

19. (previously presented) A method of vapor-deposition coating the tips of a series of drills in which the drills are inserted in a hollow holder having a polygonal plan form with the tips to be coated projecting from at least one outer face of said polygonal form, the holder with the inserted tips being rotated in a vapor deposition chamber to allow each of the drill tips to project from the holder towards the periphery of the chamber for at least a part of the processing period, and a gas admitted to the chamber after deposition of the coating being allowed to circulate through the hollow interior of the holder.